



Kansas Department of Health and Environment **LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

November 2018 | Volume 10

Recent News Releases

[Make Safety a Tradition in
Your Holiday Kitchen](#)

[Medicaid Pilot Program to
Improve Medicaid Eligibility
Determination Efficiency](#)

[State of Kansas Asks
Residents to Help Safeguard
Antibiotics](#)

[Click here to visit our
Newsroom for more!](#)



Upcoming Events

November 22-23
Thanksgiving Holiday, offices
closed

December 11, *Topeka*
[Curtis State Office Building
Blood Drive](#)

December 24-25
Christmas Holiday, offices
closed

Successes on Important Issues

By Secretary Jeff Andersen

KDHE took part in the Second Annual Opioid Conference held on Nov. 15 in Topeka. The Opioid Conference provided an opportunity for nearly 400 professionals from multiple specialties to learn about the opioid epidemic and provide insight for developing a path forward for Kansas.

Conference presenters discussed strategies regarding how to address the epidemic through the different lenses of Prescribing, Prevention, Treatment, Recovery, Law Enforcement, and Clinical Intervention.

It was my honor to attend and KDHE was proud to sponsor Carlton Hall's presentation and bring his important message to Kansas. Thanks to all who participated!



State Medicaid Director Jon Hamdorf announced his resignation at the beginning of November to pursue the completion of his doctoral degree and a career in health care consulting.

Jon has made outstanding contributions to the State Medicaid program. He has improved our service delivery model, was instrumental in leading the transition to new managed care plan options going forward and made engagement with consumers and key stakeholders a top priority.

Hamdorf was hired in August 2017, as the KDHE Director of Policy and Research. In October, he became Medicaid and Health Care Finance Director.

Hamdorf played a role in the Request for Proposal and selection of the private companies that will serve as managed care providers for new contracts, beginning in 2019. He also led efforts to improve accountability and transparency with regard to data reporting and training and quality. He oversaw negotiations to implement a new eligibility contract, while significantly improving performance of the clearinghouse vendor. He negotiated the 1115 Waiver with federal partners and improved relations with stakeholders, advocates, associations and lawmakers.



Although Hamdorf has submitted his resignation, he will remain in his current position through mid-January 2019 to ensure a smooth transition.

View all of the **KDHE Legislative Updates** online at: <http://www.kdheks.gov/administration/index.html>

Division of Health Care Finance Medicaid Eligibility

KDHE and Prefix Health Technologies are launching a pilot program to speed up the process of determining Medicaid eligibility for Kansas seniors who seek coverage for long-term care (LTC).

The Prefix Health solution leverages powerful data retrieval and machine learning technologies to quickly access and analyze data from secure, trusted third-party sources, such as banks and other financial institutions. This expedited digital approach reduces the information-gathering burden on residents and their families while providing additional usability and security.

Division of Public Health

The Bureau of Epidemiology and Public Health Informatics reports that there are currently zero confirmed cases in Kansas of Acute Flaccid Myelitis (AFM) — the polio-like disease that has been afflicting children across the country. However, KDHE continues to monitor this important situation, and has put out a short video discussing the disease, what to look for and prevention measures. [See the video here](#) and go to the [CDC page](#) for more information.

CSOB Building Security

The Curtis State Office Building will have its security measures updated during the month of December. Visitors will be required to wear visitor badges and be escorted by agency staff in non-public areas of the building. Those visiting the building are asked to contact individuals they wish to see prior to arriving at the building.

Division of Environment Flint Hills Regional Council

Bureau of Environmental Remediation staff attended the Flint Hills Regional Council's grant kickoff meeting in Manhattan on Nov. 13 to present how the Kansas Brownfields Program can assist the council with their recent grant award. The Flint Hills Regional Council received an EPA Brownfields assessment grant this past April to conduct environmental assessments at sites within the Flint Hills area. Coalition members include Junction City, Manhattan, Emporia, and Council Grove, although assessments in any of those counties outside the member cities will also be eligible for funds.

Dry Cleaner Remediation Program

KDHE held public information meetings in Wichita and Haysville regarding water contamination from the former Four Seasons dry cleaners and American Cleaners dry cleaners. These meetings are part of an effort from KDHE to educate the public regarding these issues, and to receive their input and assistance.

Keep It Clean

The 2019 Keep It Clean Calendar will come out at the end of 2018. A winner from each grade was selected from the thousands of pieces of art submitted.



KDHE will distribute copies to the legislature.

CONNECT WITH US

Requests for assistance for a constituent or questions on legislative matters, please contact **Liz Dunn**: liz.dunn@ks.gov, 785-207-3090. Questions about agency services, programs, or anything in this newsletter, please contact **Gerald Kratochvil**: gerald.kratochvil@ks.gov 785-296-1317.



KDHE PSA: *Be Well Water Aware*

KDHE unveiled a public awareness campaign to recommend that private well water users have their wells tested for at least two contaminants, every one to three years. The campaign includes a flyer, [video](#), [public service announcement](#), [webpage](#) and social media messaging. To date the [video PSA](#) has had over 11,000 views [on Facebook](#).

Please help us spread the word on your social media pages and websites!

